

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /061 W

-----022255Z 038196 /62

R 021420Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5606

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, JM

SUBJECT: SEAGA CHARGED WITH FELONIOUS ASSAULT

1. OPPOSITION LEADER EDDIE SEAGA WAS SERVED WITH A SUMMONS ON MAY 28 CHARGING HIM WITH WOUNDING ONE FRANKLIN BLAKE ON NOVEMBER 17, 1976 IN THE COURSE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ACCORDING TO THE SUMMONS, ISSUED ON MAY 18 BUT NOT SERVED FOR TEN DAYS, BLAKE WAS STABBED.

2. YESTERDAY (JUNE 1) SEAGA APPEARED IN BLACK RIVER RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT AND TRIAL WAS FIXED FOR JULY 25-27. ALL OF SEAGA'S PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES ACCOMPANIED THE OPPOSITION LEADER TO BLACK RIVER AND THE PROCEEDINGS WERE MARKED BY OCCASIONAL OUTBURSTS FROM SUPPORTERS OF SEAGA'S JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP). AT ONE POINT, THE COURT WAS REPORTEDLY FORCED TO ADJOURN FOR TWENTY MINUTES.

3. COMMENT: THE CHARGES AGAINST THE JLP LEADER HAVE BEEN MET WITH VERY CONSIDERABLE CYNICISM, NOTWITHSTANDING SEAGA'S REPUTATION FOR OCCASIONAL  
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RELIANCE ON VIOLENCE. THE LONG DELAY IN ISSUING THE SUMMONS IS UNSURPRISINGLY QUESTIONED. HOWEVER, THE FAILURE TO SERVE THE SUMMONS UNTIL THE EVE OF MRS. CARTER'S VISIT RAISES EYEBROWS FAR HIGHER. AS THE JLP ACTING SECRETARY OSSIE HARDING PUT IT IN A RELEASE GIVEN TO THE PRESS WHO ACCOMPANIED MRS. CARTER, "THE PUBLIC MUST...CONCLUDE THAT IS IS UNFORTUNATE

THAT THE SUMMONS WAS SERVED AT A TIME WHEN IT  
WOULD ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN PRESS  
COVERING THE VISIT OF THE WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

4. HARDING WENT ON IN HIS STATEMENT TO ASSERT THAT  
THE CHARGES ARE PART OF A TREND WHICH BEGAN WITH THE  
IMPOSITION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. JUST AS  
OFFICERS OF THE JLP WERE SEIZED THEN, SEAGA WILL NOW  
BE PROSECUTED, HE SAID. THE JLP IS BEING DELIBERATELY  
HARRASSED WITH THE INTENT THAT IT BE ELIMINATED,  
THE ACTING SECRETARY WROTE. "TO ELIMINATE THE  
OPPOSITION IS TO ELIMINATE DEMOCRACY...", HE ENDED.  
DORRANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEAGA CHARGED WITH FELONIOUS ASSAULT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, JM, (SEAGA, EDDIE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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